

# Indiana House of Representatives

---

## News and Information

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 26, 2005

*Media Office  
Democratic Caucus  
John Schorg, Director  
Statehouse, Room 157  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
1-800-382-9842 or 1-317-232-9621  
Fax Number: 1-317-232-9792*

## GOVERNOR'S ROAD PLAN WILL BE COSTLY FOR HOOSIERS

INDIANAPOLIS—House Democrat Leader B. Patrick Bauer (D-South Bend) said Gov. Mitch Daniels' 10-year, \$10.7 billion transportation plan, which includes the leasing of the Indiana Toll Road, will be costly to Indiana motorists.

"I give him (Daniels) an A for creativity, but a C- for practicality," said Bauer. "The governor is raising the toll prices and then leasing it to a company that is going to have to make a profit, so you know Hoosier motorists are going to pay even more in the future. Just look at what happened to the cost of driving on the Chicago Skyway. The leasing of the toll road is tantamount to selling it, because it is a long-term lease. I do not think our state should be selling its resources upon which Hoosiers depend.

"Those new costs amount to another tax increase," continued Bauer. "Indiana motorists have had enough bad news for one year. Hoosiers are in a survivor mode with these high gasoline prices. They already are paying additional taxes on the gasoline they purchase. The price has jumped a dollar per gallon in less than a year, which means Hoosiers are paying an additional six cents in sales tax for that dollar increase. Enough is enough. We live in inflationary times and the last thing Hoosiers need are more fees and more taxes."

Daniels said during a morning news conference that the cost of traveling the 157-mile trip, from Illinois to Ohio, would increase from \$4.65 to \$8 for motorists. The cost for commercial truck drivers would jump from \$14.55 to \$32.

The governor also said he is proposing the implementation of tolls on I-69, between Indianapolis and Evansville, when the project is completed in 2018 or later.

Daniels said there are more than 30 funding options to pay for the \$10.6 billion transportation plan. Bauer said Hoosiers need to know considerably more specifics about those funding plans. He urged the governor not to burden Indiana citizens through additional fees or taxes.

-30-

***This release can be accessed on the Internet at [www.IN.gov/H6](http://www.IN.gov/H6)***

